BOYS and their TOYS

FORT DODGE MEN AND THEIR TIMELESS CHILDHOOD TOYS

OLA’S CAKE RECIPE

TWEEN BASH

FAITH

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People living full lives with faith, passion and purpose.
Let the memories roll

Wrapped in a package underneath our Christmas tree in 1973 was my hero, Evel Knievel, or at least an action figure that kind of looked like him, dressed in his signature American flag-adorned white jumpsuit. A removable plastic helmet covered his flowing vinyl hair, and the look on Evel's face was as stern as anyone who would try to jump the Snake River Canyon, or in my case, down our basement steps. And, ironically, each Evel Knievel figure was also equipped with a cane.

The bendable Evel Knievel figure was quite slender and only 6” tall. He was a dwarf in comparison to G.I. Joe, Big Jim or Johnny West, but he had something those guys never did — a motorcycle. And not just any motorcycle, mind you, this doll (I use that term lightly) came with a daredevil stunt cycle with rubber tires that could absorb all the shock I could muster up. But what really made the cycle special was the red, wind-up energizer that would shoot it out at a seemingly blazing speed to gear up for the stunts.

The real-life Evel Knievel attempted more than 75 ramp-to-ramp jumps; mine did hundreds in our driveway alone. The real-life Evel suffered more than 433 broken bones, but there wasn’t a single blemish in my guy. The real-life Evel had a fleet of vehicles. I had the Evel Knievel Scramble Van, complete with jump ramp, cycle jack, cycle trailer, workbench and tools. The real-life Evel died in 2007 at age 69. Mine remains in an unknown area, disappearing sometime in the 1980s.

But, for a few hundred bucks and an online order, these memories can all be fully restored, proving that, regardless of age, a boy never really has to stop being a kid.

Thanks for reading.

Shane Goodman
Publisher
By Lori Berglund

It's a little piece of childhood saved in a box. They are to be found in out-of-the-way places — tucked away in a corner of a cobweb-ridden attic, high on a shelf in a musty basement, nearly forgotten in a box brimming full of lawn ornaments, hedge clippers and garden gloves in a garage.

These pieces of childhood, once discovered, are brought new again into the light of day. They can occupy the imagination of a grown man for hours on end. They are cleaned, polished, repaired and prized for the simpler time they represent.

This is a story of boys and their toys. But it's really so much more.

It must have been Roseanne Barr who said it so well: “Men are boys until you bury them!”

And how many times have we each heard: “The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys!”

But this isn’t just about any boys and toys. These are toys that memories are made of; that life’s sweetest stories are made of.

When men were boys, and played with these toys, they didn’t have the worry of monthly mortgages, car loans or paying off their student loans just in time to send their kids off to college.

Sometimes, a toy is much more than a toy.

Sometimes, a toy is an echo of childhood that fills the heart with happiness.

Dennis Swift understands well the joy that a good childhood toy can bring to a grown man.

Photo by Lori Berglund
“This is all about memories,” Swift says. “I have people come up to me when they see a certain toy, and they are just taken back in time. They say, ‘Oh, I had so much fun playing with that. I could do anything to it, and it wouldn’t break,’ ” he recalls.

Growing up in Fort Dodge in the 1960s and ‘70s, Swift was part of the heyday of great toys. Pong, the first video game of mass appeal debuted in 1972, but for the most part kids in this era weren’t afraid to get knees and elbows dirty to play with “real toys.”

“I remember Tonka trucks, dump trucks and old yellow graders that you could change the angle of the blade,” he recalls. “I had a whole construction set of those — dump trucks and all that stuff.”

The toys employed both imagination and boy power as they plowed through the dirt and grass in every kid’s backyard.

Swift saved the toys he could from his childhood, and the ones he lost he seeks out to recover at toy shows and collector sites. But like so many young people, once he was grown he didn’t always have the place to store his childhood treasures.

A 1980 graduate of Fort Dodge Senior High, Swift served in the U.S. Air Force and received his firefighter training while in service. He worked for several years as a federal firefighter at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha. His impressive resume also includes stints as a firefighter at the Des Moines International Airport, a General Motors diesel engine plant in Chicago and finally retiring as a deputy chief at a department in Wisconsin.

All those years in firefighting fostered a special endearment for the firefighting toys he had as a child here in Fort Dodge.

“I had a few different fire trucks when I was a kid,” Swift recalls.

Today he collects toy fire trucks from that era and is especially proud of a few of the working models.

One of his favorites is a pumper truck that comes with a small metal fire hydrant that attaches to a garden hose. And, just like the real pumpers, a small hose connects the hydrant to the pumper, which then shoots water out to fight the best of imaginary fires.

Even grown girls look at this toy pumper and say, “Wow, that would be so much fun!” Swift particularly enjoys the fact that toys of this era were made to be played with, not simply admired.

“They were built tough back then,” he says with a grin. “They were built to be played with.”

And, of course, that’s part of the reason it can now be so hard to find such vintage toys in pristine condition, let alone still in a box.
Coy Nichols, left, and Emmet Ebner are part of today’s generation that enjoys a classic toy — Lego blocks.

“Some of these trucks alone can sell for $225, but with the box they’d go for almost $300,” he explains. “Nobody ever kept the boxes, and if they did, even the boxes are beat up so bad that the toys don’t fit in them anymore.”

Still, that’s OK with Swift. A toy with a little wear and tear on it simply shows it belonged to a boy who knew how to have a good time. Those dents and scratches are all part of the charm and history of any given piece.

While firefighting equipment is his clear favorite these days, as a child Swift was also a fan of Lincoln Logs and board games. Everything from “Don’t Break the Ice” to “Mousetrap” can bring back a memory of childhood.

But some of his favorite childhood toys aren’t really toys at all. Swift also treasures the many Christmas decorations he helped his mother, the late Leota Swift, put up every Christmas season. “She loved Christmas, and that’s what I would do every Thanksgiving Day — put up the decorations outside,” Swift recalls. “We lived over by Becker’s, and we had a big side yard. It would take me all day.”

These days, he still puts up outside decorations and fills his home with bubble lights and a village scene that has been in the family for decades.

The village features everything from a schoolhouse to a church, a beer brewery to a flower shop and greenhouse, even a bowling alley and, of course, a fire station.

While the village may not technically be a “toy,” it’s certainly engendered a lot of fun family memories for all generations. Swift became a grandfather for the first time this year and hopes one day his grandson will savor the same family memories.

Like many parents, Swift still has some of his son’s toys saved away and looks forward to the day they will be passed on. “When I’m gone, I hope my son with carry on the tradition,” he says, looking fondly at the Christmas village and toys that surround it.

For now there’s no hurry for that time in the future, and he enjoys doing toy shows with his son and buying a few new pieces for his grandson.

Little toys for big boys

Bill Brian is another toy devotee. The son of a John Deere dealer, Brian still has his very first toy tractor: a John Deere A from the 1940s. It’s a little worse for the wear, but it still pops. “It’s been played with, but the rubber is still good and the tires are still good on it,” Brian notes.

A long-time toy collector, Brian still treasures the old A, as well as a few other pieces from his younger days. “I also have a 1080 Massey Ferguson from 1970,” he says.

Bill Brian treasures the farm tractors of his youth.

While the old farm toys remain popular, Brian says a lot of people want whatever they have farmed with — new or old, and big or small. “They want toys of the big tractors they farm with now,” he explains.

What the little guys think

Since big boys never seem to lose their love of toys, we decided to go to the source and talk to some little boys — find out what, perhaps, today’s generation looks for, and what the “antiques of tomorrow” may hold.

“I really want a control airplane,” says 6-year-old Emmet Ebner.

Not surprising, since big boys also seem to love flying their own radio-controlled airplanes. Furby is another favorite for young Ebner. He doesn’t have a G.I. Joe (at least not yet) and really enjoys playing with the family Xbox whenever he can. “Furby is my favorite,” he adds with a shy smile.

At 4 years old, Coy Nichols says he loves his Incredible Hulk, but he’d also like to add an Iron Man to his array of action figures.

Indeed, Incredible Hulk is a toy that is also meeting the test of time and appealing to several generations.

For his part, Swift understands well the toys of childhood can be more than just a toy when a boy becomes a man. “When we were kids, everyone wanted to be either a firefighter or a cop,” he says. “That’s the kind of stuff we played with, and that’s what I collect now because that’s what I did. More than that, I just enjoy going to toy shows and talking to people.”

And perhaps, just perhaps, keeping one’s heart a little child-like makes the world a warmer, more friendly place to be. So hold on to those toys, for in doing so one is holding onto much more. “This is all memories,” Swift says, a gleam in his eye as he remembers those days that many of us consider “the best days of our lives.”

library news

Express Saturday hours are here

Check out books, use computers as usual

By Barb Shultz

The Fort Dodge Public Library has changed its Saturday hours to 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Limited reference services will be available, but patrons will be able to check out materials, use the public computers, sign up for programs and read magazines just as they always have.

“We’ve noticed a change in the number of people using the library on Saturdays and felt that moving staff hours to other days of the week would give us the opportunity to develop additional programming for the community,” says Barb Shultz, director of the library. “The Board of Trustees gave us permission to try this for the next five months to see how the public adapts. If we see an uptick in the number of people using the library, we can always increase the hours.” The library is closed on Saturdays during the summer months.

Winter reading program
“Snowmany Books to Read” is the theme of the Adult/Teen Winter Reading program that kicked off at the library on Jan. 6. Teens and adults can earn great prizes by keeping track of how long they read. Stop at the Adult Reference Desk and register today.

Storytime registration
Winter Preschool Storytime registration begins Thursday, Jan. 16 in the Children’s Department. Parents may call the Children’s Desk at 573-8167, ext. 242 or stop by the library to register their child for one of three weekly sessions beginning Jan. 22 - 23 and ending Feb. 26 - 27. Children who are 3, 4, 5 or 6 years of age who have not yet attended kindergarten are eligible to attend.

Fort Dodge Public Library
424 Central Ave.
573-8167
Hours:
Mon. - Tues.: 8:30 am - 8 p.m.
Wed. - Fri.: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Children’s Department will also sponsor a Valentine’s open house in early February. Watch for more details on our Facebook page or on the library webpage at www.fortdodgeiowa.org/library.

Did you get a new tablet, laptop, iPad, Nook, Kindle or smart phone for Christmas? The library has downloadable audio books and e-books available to check out. Stop in the library and pick up information on how to set up your device or visit our website under the tab EBOOKS to print out information on how to use the various software programs to get free books, music and magazine subscriptions.

Q

Suggest a teacher for a Fort Dodge Living education column!

Call Darren Tromblay at 953-4822, ext 304 or email darren@dmcityview.com.

www.iowalivingmagazines.com/fortdodge
Laura Silver says when it comes time for First Presbyterian Church’s Tween Bash — held four times a year — she won’t host it without at least 20 chap-erones. Sometimes as many as 40 will help, because frankly, the event is massive. “We transform our Christian Life Center into one huge place to have fun,” she says. There is dancing with laser lights and a bubble machine, videogames, basketball, Ping-Pong, concessions, movies, bingo — the list goes on. Silver says the Bash, which will be held this year on Jan. 10, usually brings in about 250 kids. The record was 359. “We want it to be a whole-some, fun, safe haven for kids to come to,” Silver says. Silver is still deciding on this year’s theme, but says they try to match the food that’s served with whatever it may be. She’s also hoping to have the church’s ever-popular snow cone machine up and running. “We’ll make snow cones until we turn into them,” she jokes. Silver is also hoping to have the church’s ever-popular snow cone machine up and running. “We’ll make snow cones until we turn into them,” she jokes. As for the dancing, Silver says they try to encourage “group dances” with songs like the Cupid Shuffle, a usual favorite. For the shyer kids, dancing isn’t necessary with an endless amount of ongoing options in different sections of the Christian Life Center. For the competitive bunch, Silver says the most popular game is “nine square” — like four square, except played in nine squares and played in the air, like volleyball. “We transform our Christian Life Center into one huge place to have fun,” she says.

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What should you do with that refund?

A few possibilities to consider

Provided by Andy Hejlik, KHI Financial Solutions

Will you be receiving a tax refund this year? If so, you might want to think about the destiny of that money. Here are a few options to consider:

• **Start (or add to) an emergency fund.** Do you have a dedicated rainy day fund? Consider setting this money aside for a tight spot you may find yourself in at another time.

• **Invest in yourself.** You could put the money toward education, career training or personal improvement.

• **Use it for a down payment on a vehicle or real property.** Real property may represent a better financial choice, but updating your vehicle may have merit — cars do wear out.

• **Put it into an IRA or workplace retirement account.** If you haven’t maxed out your IRA this year or have a chance to get an employer match, it may be worth considering.

• **Pay down debt.** Almost always a wise move.

• **Get your home ready for the market.** Spruce up the yard, exterior, or interior of your residence or hire professional who can assist you with staging it.

• **Improve your home with energy-saving appliances.** Or windows or weather-stripping or solar panels — just to name a few options.

• **Create your own food bank.** What if a hurricane or an earthquake hits? Where would your food and water come from? Worth thinking about.

• **See a doctor, optometrist, dentist or physical therapist.** If you haven’t been able to see these professionals due to your insurance situation or your personal cash flow, why not do it now?

• **Pay for that getaway you’ve been dreaming about.** If you’re debt-free and feel financially confident, perhaps you should consider rewarding yourself.

• **Pay it forward.** Your refund could turn into a charitable contribution (deductible on next year’s federal tax return, if you itemize deductions).

By carefully considering how to use your refund in advance, you may be able to avoid asking yourself, later, that age-old question … “Where did it all go?”

Andy Hejlik is an Investment Advisor Representative with Securities and Investment Advisory Services Offered Through Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc. (TFA) Member FINRA/SIPC and Registered Investment Advisor. Non-securities products and services are not offered through TFA. TFA and KHI Financial Solutions are not affiliated.

Ola’s cake

Rich with family tradition

By Josephine Main

This cake recipe came to our family by way of my younger sister’s godmother, who baked it every year for my sister’s birthday.

As time passed, Mom started baking the cake. It was a big hit at any family gathering and became famous among my friends at Central College.

This was the first birthday cake I ever made for my husband and it has remained his favorite. I asked him one year if he would like something different, and his response was, “Are you insane!”

This is a wonderfully moist cake with a rich cocoa flavor. I top it with a fudgy buttercream frosting, and it pairs beautifully with vanilla ice cream.

A few tips on baking the cake: If you don’t have buttermilk, you can use sour milk. Pour a tablespoon of vinegar into a measuring cup and add enough milk to make one cup. Stir it and let it set a minute or two. Let the butter, eggs and buttermilk sit out of the refrigerator for awhile to knock the chill off of them before you mix the cake. And don’t be alarmed when you pour in the boiling water — it makes the batter really thin, but that’s the way it’s supposed to look. Use a spatula to blend things thoroughly after you add the boiling water; if you use a stand mixer, at that point you’ll have a chocolate-covered kitchen.

To make sure the cake is done, poke the center with a toothpick. If the toothpick comes out clean, the cake is done. Cool it, frost with your favorite frosting and enjoy!

Ola’s cake

Ingredients

1-1/2 sticks butter
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
2-1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons soda
1/2 cup cocoa
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup boiling water

Directions

1. Cream butter and sugar well. Add eggs one at a time, add vanilla.
2. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with butter milk, blend well.
3. Add boiling water and blend well.
4. Pour into greased and floured pan(s) and bake at 350 degrees, 45 minutes for a sheet cake or 35 minutes for two 9-inch layers. Do not overbake. Test center with toothpick.
According to the Federal Highway Administration, more than 116,000 injuries and 1,300 fatalities occur in auto accidents on snowy or icy roads each year.

A common culprit in many of these accidents is “black ice,” a transparent glaze that forms without bubbles, allowing it to easily blend into the surface of the road. Decrease your chances of injury this winter by learning more about this slippery hazard.

Black ice is most likely to form when there is a sudden temperature drop such as in the early morning and evening hours. Common problem areas are bridges, overpasses and shaded areas of the road. These areas have much colder surfaces that rapidly freeze when air moisture makes contact — especially if they’re near lakes or rivers.

When favorable conditions are present, be on high alert. Black ice looks a lot like wet blacktop. Look for these warning signs:

- Absence of water spray on a seemingly wet road.
- Cars suddenly swerving or skidding.
- Brake lights ahead.
- Cars or tire tracks in the ditch.
- Shiny surfaces next to a dull black.

If you’re caught on black ice, use these tips to maneuver past the problem area:

- Do nothing. Avoid making sudden moves or turning the wheel. Smoothly lift your foot off the accelerator and glide across the ice in a straight line until you find traction.
- Shift. If possible, slowly shift to a lower gear for added control.
- Brake wisely. If you begin to skid, firmly press on your brakes to activate the anti-lock brake system (ABS). Or, if you don’t have ABS, pump the brakes gently.
- Avoid spinout. If your front end is sliding, steer in the opposite direction of the skid; if the back end is sliding, steer in the same direction.
- Look toward where you want to go. Avoid looking where you think you might crash — you might inadvertently veer the car in that direction.

To stay safer on the road this winter — in a variety of conditions — exercise these preventive measures:

- Check road conditions before you travel.
- Slow down and don’t tailgate.
- Never use cruise control when road conditions are uncertain or changing.
- Use snow tires.
- Don’t rely on all-wheel drive for ice — it won’t help you gain traction.

Friday, Jan. 10
- Early Dismissal - St. Edmond Catholic School
- FDHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at DM Roosevelt, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball at DM Roosevelt, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 16
- STE 7 Girls Basketball at Bishop Garrigan, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 8 Girls Basketball vs. Bishop Garrigan, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 9 Boys Basketball vs. Southeast Webster, 6:30 p.m.
- STE JV/V Wrestling vs. Humboldt, 6:30/7 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Bowling at Mason City, 3:45 p.m.
- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball vs. Waukee, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball at Johnston, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 11
- STE 9 Boys Basketball vs. Kuemper Catholic, 9:30 a.m.
- STE V Wrestling Invitational, 10 a.m.
- FDHS JV Wrestling at Ankeny, 10 a.m.
- FDHS V Wrestling at Ames, 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 13
- No School - St. Edmond Catholic

Wednesday, Jan. 15
- Early Dismissal - Fort Dodge Schools

Tuesday, Jan. 14
- “Mysteries of Mental Illness,” one woman’s struggle to regain her life, noon or 7 p.m., Lifetree Cafe at Cana, 18 S 3rd St
- STE JV/V Girls Basketball at Clarion-Goldfield, 3:45/6:15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Boys Basketball at Clarion-Goldfield, 4:30/7:45 p.m.
- STE 7/8 Wrestling Quad, 4:15 p.m.
- STE V Wrestling Triangular, 6 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Bowling vs. Marshalltown, 3:45 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball at Humboldt, 4:15 p.m.
- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball at Valley, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Ankeny Centennial, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. Ankeny Centennial, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Boys Swimming at Mason City, 6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20
- Martin Luther King Day
- No School - Fort Dodge Schools
- STE 7/9 Boys Basketball at Bishop Garrigan, 4:15/6:30 p.m.
- STE 8 Girls Basketball vs. Bishop Garrigan, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 7 Girls Basketball at Humboldt, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 8 Boys Basketball vs. Bishop Garrigan, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 7 Boys Basketball at Mason City, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball at Mason City, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22
- Early Dismissal - St. Edmond Catholic School
- St. Edmond Catholic School Board Meeting, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23
- STE 7 Girls Basketball vs. Clarion-Goldfield, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 8 Boys Basketball vs. Algona, 4:15 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Bowling vs. Waukee, 3:45 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball vs. Marshalltown, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball at Urbandale, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24
- STE 8 Girls Basketball at Clarion-Goldfield, 4:15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Girls Basketball at Algona, 4:30/6:15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Boys Basketball at Algona, 5:7/45 p.m.
- FDHS Speech Contest, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., GNT Little Theater.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball at Boone, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 10/V Boys Basketball at Ames, 4:45/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Girls Basketball at Ames, 4:45/6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25
- STE V Wrestling Meet, 11 a.m.
- FDHS JV Wrestling at Mason City, 6:30/7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 27
- Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 4 p.m.
- City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall.
- Indoors for Saeed, 6-7:30 p.m., Community Christian School.
- Holy Trinity Parish Roast Beef Dinner, $8 adults and $4 children ages 4-11, 4 p.m., Corpus Christi Center.
- STE 7 Girls/Boys Basketball vs. Webster City, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 8 Girls/Boys Basketball at Webster City, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 9 Boys Basketball at Algona, 6:30 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball vs. Johnston, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS JV Boys Swimming at Waukee, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28
- "Where is God when Life turns Rough?", moving from doubt to hope, noon or 7 p.m., Lifetree Cafe at Cana, 18 S 3rd St
Friday, Jan. 31

- Early Dismissal - St. Edmond Catholic School
- STE 8 Boys Basketball at Humboldt, 4:15 p.m.
- STE V Girls/Boys Basketball vs. Clear Lake, 6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS JV Wrestling at SEP, 4 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball at Marshalltown, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at Marshalltown, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1

- St. Edmond Catholic School Sadie Hawkins Dance, 8:30-11 p.m.
- FDHS JV Wrestling Invitational, 10 a.m.
- FDHS TWIRP Dance, 8-11 p.m., Cafeteria.
- STE JV Wrestling at Fort Dodge, 10 a.m.
- STE V Wrestling at South Central Calhoun, 10 a.m.
- STE JV/V Girls Basketball at Kuemper Catholic, 2:30/6 p.m.
- STE JV/V Boys Basketball at Kuemper Catholic, 4/7:45 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 2

- Groundhog Day
- Super Bowl
- Groundhog Day Celebration, Friends of Oleson Park Zoo and Mayor Matt Bemrich will hold a Groundhog Day celebration, 7:30 a.m., City Hall.

Monday, Feb. 3

- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball vs. Mason City, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball at Mason City, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Girls Basketball vs. Sioux City East, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. Sioux City East, 4:45/6:15/7:30 p.m.
- STE 7/8 Wrestling at Pocahontas,

Tuesday, Feb. 4

- “News from the Future,” a futurist gives a sneak peek, noon or 7 p.m., Lifetree Cafe at Cana, 18 S 3rd St
- FDHS JV/V Bowling at Ankeny, 3:45 p.m.
- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball at Waukee, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. SEP, 4:45/6/15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. SEP, 4:45/6/15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS JV Wrestling at Mason City, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Girls Basketball at Kuemper Catholic, 4/7:45 p.m.
- STE 7 Girls Basketball at Algona, 4/7:45 p.m.
- STE 8 Girls Basketball vs. Algona, 4:15 p.m.
- STE 9 Boys Basketball vs. Algona, 4:15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Webster City, 4:15/6/15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Boys Basketball vs. Webster City, 4:3/7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

- Early Dismissal - St. Edmond Catholic School
- Early Dismissal - Fort Dodge Schools

Thursday, Feb. 6

- Ag Leaders Meeting, 7 a.m., Perkins.
- FDHS JV/V Wrestling at Ames 6:30/7:30 p.m.
- FDHS JV Boys Basketball at Marshalltown, 7 p.m.
- STE 7 Boys Basketball at Algona, 4:15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Pocahontas, 4:30/6 p.m.
- STE JV/V Boys Basketball vs. Pocahontas, 4:30/7:45 p.m.
- STE 9 Boys Basketball at Iowa Falls-Alden, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7

- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball at Boone, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. Mason City, 4:45/6/15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Mason City, 4:45/6/15/7:45 p.m.
- STE JV/V Girls Basketball at Iowa Falls-Alden, 4:30/6:15 p.m.
- STE JV/V Boys Basketball at Iowa Falls-Alden, 4:30/7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11

- “Finding the Family I Never Knew”, a story of separation, adoption and reunion, noon or 7 p.m., Lifetree Cafe at Cana, 18 S 3rd St
- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball vs. Valley, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS 7 Boys Basketball at Johnston, 4:30 p.m.
- STE JV Boys Basketball vs. Eagle Grove, 4:30 p.m.
- STE V Wrestling at TBA, 7 p.m.
- STE V Boys Basketball at Eagle Grove, 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 13

- FDHS V Girls/Boys Bowling at Johnston, 12:30 p.m.
- FDHS 8 Boys Basketball at Johnston, 4:30 p.m.
- FDHS JV Wrestling at Boone, 5:30 p.m.
- FDSH Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m., GNT Little Theater.

Friday, Feb. 14

- Valentine’s Day
- FDHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. Ames, 4:45/6/15/7:45 p.m.
- FDHS JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Ames, 4:45/6:15 p.m.

Submit event information to lindsey@iowalivingmagazines.com
Fresh and fast

Jimmy John’s joins Corridor of Commerce

By Lori Berglund

Free smells, goes the slogan at the newly-opened Jimmy John’s on the rapidly growing “Corridor of Commerce” along Fifth Avenue South in Fort Dodge. But with smells this good, I might just pay for that pleasure alone.

The bread here is so good it barely needs anything on top of it to make it a treat. A crisp and delicious crust is only the beginning, as the soft — almost sweet — interior begs to be savored slowly.

Of course, with their promise of lightning fast preparation and delivery, one has plenty of time to savor the sandwich.

On my first visit, I opted for a classic taste combination with the gourmet Vito club sandwich. Piled high with salami, cheese, onion, lettuce, slices of tomato, capi-cola and an Italian vinaigrette give this sub a delectable taste, hearty enough to carry one through for a full afternoon of work.

My dining companion, meanwhile, feasted on the aptly named “Hunter Club.” This hearty sandwich featured a double serving of roast beef, topped with lettuce, cheese, tomato and mayo.

Just for fun, I can’t wait to try the Beach Club on our next visit. (Besides, a taste of the beach right about now would be a welcome relief from the snow on my windshield.) The Beach Club comes with my favorite turkey, topped with a yummy avocado spread, cucumber, lettuce, tomato, mayo and cheese. It’s a fresh taste to an old favorite.

Jimmy John’s
3022 Fifth Ave. South
(515) 955-5588
Hours: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily

There are plenty of other choices we want to try as well, from the Italian Club to the Billy Club, and even a gourmet smoked ham.

Perhaps really refreshing is to have a new delivery option available. A minimum order of four box lunches is enough to feed a hungry bunch, with choice of sandwich, chips, cookie and a pickle in every box. And, who knew? You can even order pickles by the bucket you love them so much.

Meet Jeanna Rogers

Fort Dodge native is glad to be back home

By Lori Berglund

Sometimes, the best way to discover the value of home is to take an adventure far, far away.

Student teaching in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was a dream come true for Fort Dodge native Jeanna Rogers. What college student wouldn’t celebrate any assignment that involves a beach town?

The 2007 graduate of Fort Dodge Senior High double-majored in elementary education and early childhood education at the University of Northern Iowa, which arranged the plump student teaching assignment. She student taught in second grade and a 4 year old pre-k program, then decided to stick around in the popular resort community.

After graduating from UNI, Rogers worked as a substitute teacher in Myrtle Beach. She landed a few long-term subbing assignments and then a full-time first grade position.

“There was so much diversity in our school,” she says. “I had a lot of different cultures represented in my classroom, and eight different countries alone.”

Nations represented ranged from Mexico to Guatemala, China to Uzbekistan and then some. But not only were their cultures and backgrounds different, their economic situations ran the spectrum.

“I had some kids who were homeless who were living in hotels, and I some kids who were living in million dollar homes,” Rogers notes.

Education philosophy was also much different. Myrtle Beach had county schools and a set curriculum that required strict adherence by teachers.

While Rogers wouldn’t trade her adventure in Myrtle Beach for anything, she’s also glad it ultimately led her home to Fort Dodge as a first grade teacher at Cooper Elementary School.

“It made me appreciate home more when I couldn’t hop in my car and be home in an hour,” she says.

And while Fort Dodge celebrates its diversity, Rogers’ experience helped her see how much we all have in common. While there are still students of different backgrounds and different abilities in her classroom at Cooper, Rogers sees them as starting from a much more level playing field — each with great opportunity for the future.

She also considers it a blessing to be in a district where teachers are empowered to use the curriculum as a map to guide every student, rather than a tether to a set of unbending rules.

“I really appreciate being in Fort Dodge,” she says.

What do you like best about your teacher?

Kennedy Williams: “She’s pretty.”
Brayton Loftus: “She very nice.”
Gabby Waldschmidt: “She’s always nice.”
Submit your photos and captions to darren@dmcityview.com

See more photos online at www.iowalivingmagazines.com

Todd McCubbin and Kim Alstott at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.

Kelly Guderian cuts the ribbon for Fort Frenzy’s grand opening on Dec. 9.

Tim Guderian and Teresa Naughton at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.

Matt Johnson rode in the Spin Zone at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.


J. P. Hulsey rides the super bikes at Fort Frenzy on Dec. 26.

Dilan Griffin and Keondae Driver at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.

Alexis Wolf as Tinkerbell, Laura Phillips as Cinderella and Chris Pergande as Clifford at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.
Submit your photos and captions to darren@dmcityview.com

Dean Barrett, Ali Berger and Cheryl O’Hern at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.


Brayden Erickson, Chris Erickson, Hope Huff and Ciara Huff at Fort Frenzy on Dec. 26.

Dennis, Adam and Beth Plautz at the ribbon cutting for Fort Frenzy on Dec. 9.

Linda and Jim Flaherty at Linda’s retirement reception held at the Blanden Museum on Dec. 28.

Pat and Karen Glaser at Linda Flaherty’s retirement reception held at the Blanden Museum on Dec. 28.

Rick and Chris Fulker at Linda Flaherty’s retirement reception held at the Blanden Museum on Dec. 28.

John and Connie Bruner at Linda Flaherty’s retirement reception held at the Blanden Museum on Dec. 28.

Mary Casey, Angela, Chloe and Mark Jessen at Linda Flaherty’s retirement reception held at the Blanden Museum on Dec. 28.

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